

# *The Virginia Christian*

*June, 2022*



## A Reflection on the Assembly Gathering:

When you try something new, you never know how it will work out, what might go wrong or if it will be embraced by those who choose to attend. However, this is what the church has been doing since it began, and I believe that Jesus, throughout this life, was always nudging his disciples to "cast the nets on the other side of the boat" or "go to the other side of the sea" or "widen their understanding of who was part of the Body of Christ." There is no record of Jesus actually asking a person to change pews or alter the way a Region should gather in an assembly, but I believe he would be encouraging us followers to always ask ourselves if the "WAY" we go about church is still providing life and purpose for those who gather.

With that introduction, let me say this about this new way of gathering as the Virginia Region, it was an absolute joy to see a larger than normal attendance from churches from across the breadth of districts. It filled my soul to experience worship that reflected the many forms and expressions throughout the churches. We received feedback that the workshops were helpful and invigorating and it was inspiring to know that there is life and leadership across the Region. Many people have taken ideas and ministry practices back to their congregations with the hope of implementing what they have learned. We set a record for the shortest business meeting at a regional assembly as it only took 16 minutes to approve our new nominations and accept the new budgets through 2023. Both youth and adult even had fun together in the outdoor game park. On a personal note, it was good to finally, after 3 years, be installed officially as the Regional Minister of Virginia.

Now, there are things we will continue to change to make it better and always ask if this way of being together provides life and purpose as followers and there are still nudges to "go over there" or "cast our nets on the other side" but CHURCH it was and it is a good day to be a Disciples in Virginia!

Blessings,  
BSD

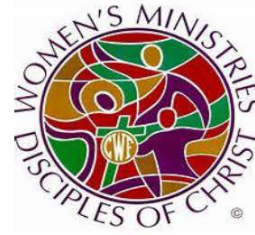








# DISCIPLES WOMEN FALL RETREAT



July 12, 2021

Dear Disciple Sisters,

We wanted to make sure that you are aware that the Virginia Disciples Annual Fall Retreat will be held, October 15-17, 2021, at Hilton Garden Inn, Lynchburg, VA. Our Disciple Women's Cabinet is strongly urging **ALL** women to attend the retreat this year. Coming out of a pandemic, hopefully everyone will want the opportunity to become engaged and participate in this retreat. We are thankful to God for enabling us to resume this annual event. The excitement about this year's retreat is increasingly buzzed among Committee members and among those who have already been contacted about their accepting leadership roles to bring our visions to fruition.

We promise that this retreat will be the best and most diverse yet! The theme is **"Called for Such a Time as This", from Esther 4:14. The keynote speaker, Dr. Amy Butler, is dynamic and clearly reflects the spirit and heart of Christ!** We are especially asking young women to attend and participate. In fact, this year we are planning an interest/workshop session to address managing competing priorities, i.e., church, job/career, and family. Also new this year will be a panel discussion of current social justice issues moderated by our Regional Minister, Rev. Bill Spangler-Dunning. And, on Saturday evening, we will host Talent Night, so those of you who are young, or not so young, can delight us with your blessed gifts for us to enjoy to the glory of God. Please do not hesitate to volunteer for this assignment through one of the Committee members listed below. Varied talents are desired as graced through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

Please register to attend this year's retreat. You will not regret it! You do not want to miss it! Besides, you too may be spiritually enriched by the sharing of your own scriptural insights and gifts, "called for such a time as this"!

Blessings,

2021 VDWM Fall Retreat Committee  
Margretha Kellam - (434-251-1765)  
Resa Payne- (434-239-4908)  
Loretta Jones-Gafford- (434-384-0464)  
Or any officer or member of the Women's Cabinet

(If for some reason you do not get to speak with us, please leave a message and your call will be returned.)

## **SAVE-THE DATE**

**"CALLED FOR SUCH A TIME AS THIS"**

**(Esther 4:14)**

**Virginia Disciples Women's Ministry (VDWM)**

**Fall Retreat October 14-16, 2022**

**Hilton Garden Inn, 4025 Wards Road, Lynchburg, VA (434-239-3006)**



### **Keynote Speaker**

#### **Rev. Stephanie Kendell**

Executive Minister and C.O.O.

Park Avenue Christian Church

1010 Park Ave

New York, NY 10028

**Registration Deadline: August 31, 2022**

For more information, contact:

Loretta Jones-Gafford (434-384-0464)

Margretha Kellam (434-251-1765)

Resa Payne (434-239-4908)

**Mark your calendar. See you there!**



## “CALLED FOR SUCH A TIME AS THIS”

(Esther 4:14)

Virginia Disciples Women's Ministry (VDWM)

2022 Fall Retreat Registration      October 14-16

Hilton Garden Inn, 4025 Wards Road, Lynchburg, VA, (434) 239-3006

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Numbers (Cell): \_\_\_\_\_ (Home): \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_ Church Home: \_\_\_\_\_

### Registration Options\*

Full Registration with all meals	\$145.00
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(3 meals on Sat. & Bkft. only on Sun.)

Partial Registration with 3 meals on Saturday	\$125.00
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\*Our regrets. Both registration options include meals so that VDWM will be approved for the free use of conference room spaces.

**Registration Deadline: August 31, 2022**

Make checks payable to: Christian Church in Virginia

Mail this form and payment to: Christian Church in Virginia

1290 Enterprise Drive

Lynchburg, VA 24502

**PLEASE NOTE:**

You must make your own hotel reservations by phone (434-239-3006) or online (<http://group.hiltongardeninn.com/vadisciplewomen>), using a credit card. The group code is VAD. The room rate is \$124.00 + Occupancy Tax, City Sales Tax, and State Tax, totaling \$140.00 per room. **Rooms must be booked by 9/16/22 to receive this discounted rate.**

Also, notify the hotel of any dietary or mobility challenges that may require their attention.



## Help the people of Ukraine

If you are looking for a way to help the people of Ukraine, give to The Week of Compassion:  
<https://www.weekofcompassion.org/stories/category/ukraine>

## Keep Vincent Klug in your prayers

We would like to ask everyone to continue to keep Rev. Vincent Klug of Louisa Christian Church in your prayers.

## The Gathering - A Retreat for Pastors by the Pension Fund

The Gathering is a biennial conference that helps you connect with other pastors as you join together to learn to discuss spiritual, health, and financial wellness. Our hope is that you will leave The Gathering feeling refreshed and inspired. The conference goes from September 6 - 8, 2022 in New Orleans. Information and registration link: <https://web.cvent.com/event/9692bf91-ba8c-4698-af47-0310ad8f34dc/summary?RefId=The%20Gathering%202020>

## News from District 10

### It's a Family of Believers!

Often members of small rural (and urban) congregations contemplate trying to do things like those trendy mega-churches in the hopes of drawing in more folks. They wonder what a small church can offer to "compete" with the slick production that a lot of contemporary churches offer. The answer is our "secret weapon"...we're a family! The one thing that large churches struggle with is something the smaller congregations have in abundance, and that is real personal connections and a sense of family. We all know, love, and look out for each other. If someone is ill, a dozen people call or visit, bring food and/or flowers. The challenge for us is not to necessarily create some new whiz-bang service, or even feel the need to compete, but to highlight our strengths and build on them. We are, after all, not buildings full of strangers, but a family of believers!

